

## SACAI Poetry Support Material ENG FAL: Sonnet 145 (W Shakespeare)

### SONNET 145 (W SHAKESPEARE)

#### Shakespeare version (must be studied)

#### Paraphrase (Only for support purposes)

1 Those lips that Love's own hand did make	Those lips of my mistress, made by the hand of Venus herself
2 Breathed forth the sound that said 'I hate'	Said "I hate"
3 To me that languish'd for her sake;	To me, who pined for her love;
4 But when she saw my woeful state,	But when she saw my pitiful state,
5 Straight in her heart did mercy come,	In her heart she felt mercy,
6 Chiding that tongue that ever sweet	Softening her sweet tongue
7 Was used in giving gentle doom,	That was otherwise not too harsh,
8 And taught it thus anew to greet:	And teaching that tongue to speak in a new loving way to me:
9 'I hate' she alter'd with an end,	By adding words to the end of "I hate"
10 That follow'd it as gentle day	Those words that she added followed like a gentle day That followed, as a gentle day
11 Doth follow night, who like a fiend	Follows night, who like a devil
12 From heaven to hell is flown away;	Flies away from heaven to hell;
13 'I hate' from hate away she threw,	"I hate" she separated from hate,
14 And saved my life, saying 'not you.'	And she saved my life by adding "not you".

(Please see notes on the SONNET formats – London 1802)



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### Summary

Sonnet 145 is one of Shakespeare's sonnets. It forms part of the *Dark Lady sequence* of sonnets. It is written as a description of the feelings of a man who is so in love with a woman that, hearing her saying that "she hates" something, immediately creates a fear that she is referring to him. But then when she notices how much pain she has caused her lover by saying that she may potentially hate him, she changes the way that she says it to assure him that she hates but does not hate him.

Shakespeare's 154 sonnets can be divided into different sections in various numerous ways. Many divide them as follows: **Sonnets 1–126**, in which the poet has a close relationship with a young man, and **Sonnets 127–154**, which are concerned with the poet's relationship with a woman, also referred to as the **Dark Lady**, or as his mistress.

Sonnet 145 is the sequel to the previous sonnet on love. The mistress grants pity on the poet in contrast to previous sonnets, in which she was merciless. Before, her only words to the poet were "I hate," but once she sees how he "languished for her sake," her hatred turns into mercy.

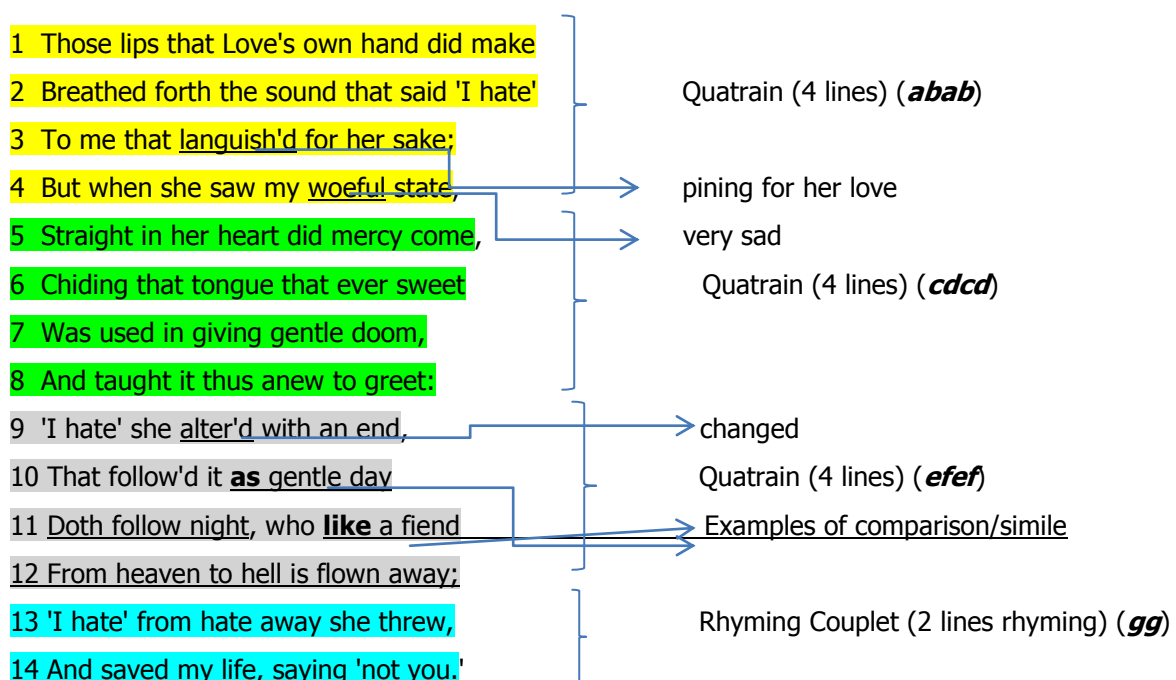
As ENG FAL students, we do not have to go into so much detail when studying any poem, although this Sonnet remains one that had been discussed and criticized by many for various reasons.

The poet's relationship with the Dark Lady, a married woman with whom he becomes infatuated, created many different feelings in him: love, hate, jealousy, and also contempt. He also seems to become dependent on her in an unhealthy way.

### Style and format

Sonnet 145 is unusual in that, unlike any of Shakespeare's other sonnets, it is written in a different rhythm. Many critics believe that this sonnet is playful and doesn't show Shakespeare's usual seriousness towards his feelings of love.

One still finds the typical **Shakespearian Sonnet format: 3 quatrains and a rhyming couplet = 14 lines**



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### Analysis and figurative language

(Modern text -Also refer to paraphrase)

Those lips that look like they were made by the goddess of love herself breathed forth the words, "I hate"—and she was talking to me, the man who's pining with love for her. But when she saw how unhappy she'd made me, mercy came into her heart and she chided her sweet tongue, which is usually so gentle and merciful, and taught it to speak something else to me. She changed "I hate" by adding a few words the way day follows night, that fiend flying from heaven to hell: She took hatred away from "I hate," saving my life with "not you."

The figurative language is straightforward – the simplest of his sonnets. (Figurative language is any that uses metaphor, simile or any of the other rhetorical figures and poetic devices.)

See examples of comparisons/similes in lines 9-12:

9 'I hate' she alter'd with an end,

10 That follow'd it **as gentle day**

11 Doth follow night, **who like a fiend**

12 From heaven to hell is flown away

She changed the *I hate* by adding something else that made him feel better: as a gentle day would follow night

Night/darkness/sadness flows away like a devil/an enemy would fly from heaven to hell

Shakespeare's Sonnet #145  
"Those lips that Love's own  
hand did make"

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The following has been compiled and added by Imbila:

### **SONNET 145: - QUESTIONS**

Read all the notes on the web page about the relevant poem.

Answer these following questions.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Discuss the characteristics of a Shakespearean Sonnet. 4
2. Why would Shakespeare write the word "Love in capital letters in the first line? 1
3. Explain the meaning of the word 'woeful' in context of the verse line. 2
4. What do you think was the ladies reaction when she realized she has hurt him? 2
5. Quote and explain one simile from the poem. 4
6. In your opinion do you think the beloved in the poem loves the speaker as much as he does. Motivate your answer. 2

TOTAL 15

**SONNET 145 - MEMORANDUM**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:**

1. Discuss the characteristics of a Shakespearean Sonnet. 4

*Sonnet has 14 verse lines which can be divided into three quatrains and always end on a rhyming couplet. There is a definite rhyme scheme as:  
abab cdcd efef gg*

2. Why would Shakespeare write the word "Love in capital letters in the first line? 1

*The Goddess of Love is Venus and this implies that her hands made the lips of his mistress herself.*

3. Explain the meaning of the word 'woeful' in context of the verse line. 2

*'woeful' means being really sad pining for love, so the poet is really sad because his love told him she 'hated' something.*

4. What do you think was the ladies reaction when she realized she has hurt him? 2

*The lady then changed her story and then said 'not you', the speaker still felt hurt and only at the end of the poem did he get the relief that she did not refer to him. Although he still hurt because how could such a beautiful creature hate anything around her.*

5. Quote and explain one simile from the poem. 4

*" 'I hate' she alter'd with an end, that follow'd it as gentle day" ;  
She changed the 'I hate' by adding something else that made him feel better*

*"doth follow night, who like a fiend from heaven to hell is flown away"  
Night, darkness or sadness flows away like a devil or enemy flies away from heaven to hell.*

6. In your opinion do you think the beloved in the poem loves the speaker as much as he does. Motivate your answer. 2

*Own opinion answer:*

*Yes. If she really loved him she would have corrected herself immediately when she saw how much she hurt him.*

*No. If you truly love someone you would not even use words which are negative let alone 'I hate ..'*

TOTAL 15